

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to achieving results, not setting up roadblocks. Already we have passed a plan to provide prescription drug coverage that is voluntary, affordable, and available to all. When we tried to work with Democrats on this issue, they got up and walked out of the Chamber.

It is time to put partisan politics aside and work to get a prescription drug plan signed into law. Vice President GORE campaigns for a plan to force seniors into a one-size-fits-all, government-run HMO. Recently, Mr. GORE told seniors a phony story about his own mother-in-law to win their support for this flawed drug plan. Now he and his friends in this Chamber are inventing stories about Medicare to frighten seniors.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Congress has put the Nation's financial house in order, we stopped the raid on Social Security, and we are paying down the national debt. Now a prescription drug benefit is possible. If the President and our friends on the other side of the aisle would adopt a bipartisan spirit, we would be able to offer these benefits next year.

#### SENIORS DEMAND GUARANTEED MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, there is a difference, and I am glad my colleague just called for a bipartisan approach to solving the problems for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I would just ask my colleague to pose the question to senior citizens throughout this country: Do they want the opportunity to dial up their HMO or pharmaceutical company and beg for an opportunity to buy low-cost prescription drugs, or do they want a guaranteed benefit by Medicare? I venture to say that my seniors who have seen HMOs close their doors in their community, who are crying out for health care, would argue: "Give me a guaranteed Medicare prescription drug benefit. One that allows me to get the same cost and prices that are given to our hospitals and other large institutions."

Mr. Speaker, it is very simple. Give them an opportunity to pay their rent and buy their food and still have good health care. I hope my colleagues see the light and are willing to pass a real prescription drug benefit, a real Patients' Bill of Rights that allows the patient-physician relationship to be restored and for HMOs to find their place.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, it is a shame, too, that we cannot pass a hate crimes bill.

#### LISTEN TO OUR SENIORS

(Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I say to the President, "Listen to our seniors." My seniors are being hurt by their Medicare+Choice plans leaving the market. They are hurt because through these plans they get better benefits than Medicare offers, and millions of seniors in these plans are sicker and poorer than most of our senior citizens and can't afford Medigap prices.

You are closing down their plans, by having increased their reimbursements 2 percent a year for 3 years, and now offering 3 percent when costs are trending up at 8 to 10 percent, as well as giving every single Medicare provider a bigger increase. Your policy is simply forcing them out of the market.

Mr. Speaker, I would say to the President that the plans have already left the less densely populated areas and in the next round are going to leave areas like New York City and its boroughs, leaving millions of seniors stranded. And, cruelly, these seniors cannot buy Medigap insurance either, because they cannot afford it or they would be excluded because of pre-existing conditions.

Mr. Speaker, I again say to the President, "Mr. President, help our seniors by giving the managed care plus choice plans a decent increase this year. And next year, let us reform Medicare so that the benefits are better for all seniors and the reimbursements fairer and simpler."

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The Member is reminded that remarks in debate are to be addressed to the Chair.

#### SECURING OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

(Mr. GARY MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, imagine an America where all children receive a world class education and an opportunity to achieve their dreams in a safe school in every community. Imagine an America where the best and brightest teach America's children and every child can read by the third grade. Imagine an America where 95 percent of students graduate

from high school and every high school graduate has access to a college education.

Mr. Speaker, House Republicans are committed to this vision for our children and making these dreams a reality.

Children are America's top priority. Republicans are open to innovation and new solutions to old problems. Republicans have made a solid commitment to education, but the Clinton-Gore administration and Democrats in Congress want the Federal Government to decide what local schools can and cannot do. This is what separates the two parties on education policy.

Wake up America. Every child, regardless of family income, deserves a quality education. We need to increase the role of parents in the day-to-day education of their children and decrease the role of Washington. Republicans are committed to securing America's future for our children and grandchildren.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 332, nays 51, not voting 49, as follows:

[Roll No. 544]

YEAS—332

Abercrombie	Bliley	Collins
Ackerman	Blumenauer	Combest
Allen	Blunt	Condit
Andrews	Boehert	Conyers
Archer	Boehner	Cook
Armey	Bonilla	Cooksey
Baca	Bonior	Cox
Bachus	Bono	Coyne
Baird	Boswell	Cramer
Baker	Boucher	Cubin
Baldacci	Boyd	Cummings
Baldwin	Brady (TX)	Cunningham
Ballenger	Brown (FL)	Davis (FL)
Barcia	Bryant	Davis (IL)
Barr	Burr	Davis (VA)
Barrett (NE)	Buyer	Deal
Barrett (WI)	Callahan	DeGette
Bartlett	Calvert	DeLauro
Barton	Camp	DeMint
Bass	Canady	Deutsch
Bentsen	Capps	Diaz-Balart
Bereuter	Cardin	Dicks
Berkley	Carson	Dingell
Berman	Castle	Doggett
Berry	Chabot	Dooley
Biggert	Chambliss	Doollittle
Billirakis	Clayton	Doyle
Bishop	Clement	Dreier
Blagojevich	Coble	Dunn